

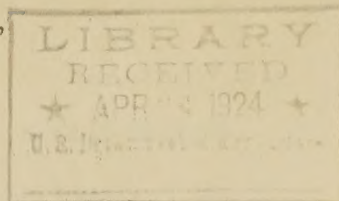
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,  
BUREAUS OF ENTOMOLOGY AND PLANT INDUSTRY,  
In cooperation with  
GEORGIA STATE BOARD OF ENTOMOLOGY



Government and State Laboratory,  
Fort Valley, Georgia.

PICK UP AND DESTROY PEACH "DROPS"

A large percentage of the small peaches that are now falling are infested with curculio larvae, or "worms." This fact indicates that many adult curculios are present in the peach orchards of Middle Georgia, notwithstanding the unusually cold winter which caused some to believe that the insect had been pretty well killed out. Growers are, therefore, advised to start immediately to pick up all small peaches that fall prematurely, in order to reduce the number of curculios in orchards. In some years the majority of the "worms" in the Hileys, Georgia Belles, and Elbertas at harvest are second-generation "worms", the eggs of which were deposited by adults that resulted from "worms" in the peaches dropped in April and May. If these drops are picked up and destroyed the numbers of the second brood of "worms" will be materially reduced, by preventing thousands of "worms" of the first brood from reaching the adult stage. The eggs for the destructive second brood of "worms" are deposited by these first-generation adults.

Experiments conducted by this Laboratory show that three collections of dropped peaches will eliminate about 90 per cent of all curculio "worms" that fall during the season in peach "drops." The first collection should be made about a week after the small peaches begin to fall, and the other two at intervals of five or six days. A special effort should be made to collect first the smallest peaches that drop, as the smallest "drops" are the ones most likely to contain curculio "worms." All "drops" should be destroyed as soon as they are collected, by burying in a trench 18 to 24 inches below the surface of the soil. A layer of quicklime should be placed over the "drops" before filling in with soil. The "worms" can be destroyed by boiling the "drops," if this can be conveniently done. Burning "drops" has not proved very satisfactory.





On account of the extent of the curculio infestation in Middle Georgia it is necessary for peach growers to pick up and destroy peach "drops," in addition to the various spraying or dusting applications, if the insect is to be kept under satisfactory control. Growers are also advised to use the extension disk under the spread of the trees as frequently as possible between May 1 and July 1, to prevent curculio pupae in the soil from reaching the adult, or beetle, stage.

Detailed information on spraying, dusting, and other methods of peach insect and disease control can be obtained by applying to the Government and State Laboratory, Fort Valley, Georgia.

It is necessary for the people to have a clear understanding of the situation in the country, and to be able to make their own decisions. The government should be responsible for providing the necessary information and for ensuring that the people are able to make their own choices. The government should also be responsible for ensuring that the people are able to make their own choices.

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